

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Streptomyces bacterium, said method comprising:

~~providing—transforming or transfecting~~ a Streptomyces bacterium with an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA that is not present in the Streptomyces bacterium in nature, the heterologous SsgA comprising at least one of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, and SEQ ID NO: 7, said Streptomyces bacterium lacking detectable endogenous SsgA during submerged culture.

2-7. Canceled.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein said expressible polynucleotide is integrated into the genome of the Streptomyces bacterium.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein said expressible polynucleotide is part of an episomal element.

10. Canceled.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein expression of the expressible polynucleotide is inducible or repressible with a signal.

12-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein said Streptomyces bacterium produces a useful product.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said useful product is an antibiotic.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said useful product is a protein.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is heterologous to said *Streptomyces* bacterium.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is expressed from a vector encoding said protein present in said *Streptomyces* bacterium.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said protein is secreted by said *Streptomyces* bacterium.

20-28. Canceled.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expressible polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

30-32. Canceled.

33. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising at least one of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 7;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of ~~*Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus*~~ and *Streptomyces erythraea*.

34. Canceled.

35. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Saccharopolyspora bacterium, said method comprising ~~providing~~ transforming a Saccharopolyspora bacterium with an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising at least one of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 7.